

Message Text

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AUBJECT: PALERMO PSI PROVINCIAL CONGRESS APRIL 3 AND 4.

REF: PALERMO 0091

1. SUMMARY: AT ITS PROVINCIAL CONGRESS IN PALERMO APRIL 3 AND 4 PSI ELECTED A NEW PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE. ELECTION OF A NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARY IS TO FOLLOW SHORTLY. AIM OF CONGRESS WAS TO CUT DC DOWN TO SIZE, AND TO TIE PCI TO ITS AFTER-ELECTION RESPONSIBILITIES IN PARTICIPATING IN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. END OF SUMMARY.
2. ON APRIL 3 AND 4, THE PALERMO PSI CALLED FOR (1) THE TERMINATION OF THE DOMINANT ROLE OF THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH A SOCIALIST EFFORT AIMED AT CUTTING THE DC DOWN IN THE ELECTIONS# AND (2) THE NEED TO TIE THE PCI TO ITS RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH A DIRECT PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNISTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REGION AFTER JUNE 13 ELECTIONS. THE PALERMO PSI IS IN FULL ACCORD WITH THE RESULTS OF THE RECENT REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CONGRESSES# EXPRESSED ITS WISH TO FOSTER, IN THE LONGER RUN, A "LEFTIST ALTERNATIVE" TO THE DC# AND JUDGED AS "POSITIVE" THE LEGISLATIVE CONFRONTO INVOLVING THE DC, PCI, PSI, PSDI AND PRI IN THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY SINCE NOVEMBER 1975.
3. HERE FOLLOWS A LISTING, BY FACTION, OF PALERMO'S NEW PSI 53-MEMBER DIRECTORATE:
DE MARTINO FACTION, 36 MEMBERS (21 OF THE SALADINO BRANCH
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AND 15 OF THE LAURICELLA BRANCH)

LOMBARDI FACTION, 7 MEMBERS

MANCINI FACTION, 6 MEMBERS

AUTONOMISTI, 2 MEMBERS

AREA SOCIALISTA, 2 MEMBERS

4. COMMENT: PALERMO'S PSI GAVE THE FIRST "YES" ANSWER TO BERLINGUER'S PALERMO MARCH 28 SPEECH ("PALERMO 0226), CONFIRMING THE GENERAL SHIFT OF THE PSI TOWARD THE LEFT. THE LAURICELLA/SALADINO SPLIT (REFTEL) FAVORED EX-MINISTER SALVATORE LAURICELLA. HOWEVER, REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT GASPARE SALADINO REMAINS THE STRONGER SOCIALIST LEADER IN THE PALERMO PROVINCE. THE LOMBARDIANI DISPLACED THE MANCINIANI AS THE NUMBER TWO FACTION, JUST AS THEY DID IN THE LAST REGIONAL CONGRESS. THE CRYING NEED FOR PARTY RENOVATION AND CLEANING WAS VOICED BY THE RANK AND FILE ON THE PARTY. INDEED, BOTH BRANCHES OF THE DE MARTINO FACTION MADE A TIMID ATTEMPT TO BRING A NEW FACES INTO THE PARTY'S PROVINCIAL DIRECTORATE OF PALERMO. IT WAS A GOOD START BUT NOT ENOUGH, CONSIDERING THE RATHER TARNISHED IMAGE OF THE PALERMO PSI AND THE INABILITY OF THE PALERMO DC TO RENOVATE ITSELF (OUR INTERNAL MEMO OF APRIL 5, SENT TO AMEMBASSY AND DEPARTMENT). CHIAVARINI

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